14th December, 2004 that additional gas will be prorated among the new IPPs without affecting the existing power producers. Subsequently, on request of Government of Andhra Pradesh, Government directed GAIL to limit supply of gas to the existing IPPs only. It was decided that gas would be supplied to new IPPs only when additional gas becomes available.

(b) Kakinada-Hyderabad-Uran-Ahmedabad Pipeline with a length of 1385 km is being laid by M/s Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure, passing *inter alia* through 563 km in 7 districts in Andhra Pradesh. Government has issued authorizations to Vijayawada-.Nellore-Chennai pipeline and Kakinada-Basudebpur-Howrah pipeline passing through Andhra Pradesh. Krishna Godavari Gas Network Limited (KGGNL)'s application for grant of authorization for laying, building and operating common carrier natural gas pipelines in the state of Andhra Pradesh has been forwarded to Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) for consideration, since the provisions of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006 (except Section 16) have been made effective from 01'. 10.2007.

Supply of gas to Uran power plant

1211. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether Maharashtra State Power Generation Company (Mahagenco) has decided to raise the capacity of its gas based Uran plant to 750 MW by end of March 2008;

whether the plant actually depends on the pipeline that is being constructed by Gas Authority of India Limited, which will connect the Uran Plant to the west coast of the country;

whether the new pipeline will be operational from March, 2008; and

if so, whether supply of gas has already been provided to this plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited (MahaGenco) has planned to set up 1040 MW expansion of Gas based Combined Cycle Power Generation Project at Uran. Gas source for this has yet to be tied up. GAIL (India) limited has constructed Dahej-Uran Pipeline (DUPL). Its spurline Panvel-Uran pipeline would be mechanically completed by 31.3.08 and, thereafter, pipeline would be ready to be charged with gas.

Supply of cooking gas through pipeline in Jharkhand

t 1121**2**. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for providing cooking gas through gas pipeline in Ranchi, Jamshedpur and other cities of Jharkhand;

if so, the details thereof; and

the cities, where this plan is likely to be started and by when?

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) City Gas Distribution projects have not been implemented in Ranchi, Jamshedpur and other cities of Jharkhand, because, as of now, there is no natural gas pipeline available in the vicinity of these cities.

In order to promote investment from public as well as private sector for laying trunk natural gas pipelines and city/local natural gas distribution networks throughout the country, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks'. Providing of PNG facilities depends upon availability of gas, setting up of necessary infrastructure and economic viability.

Promotion of Tourism to Uttarakhand

1213. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

what steps Government proposes to take to promote tourism in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand during the financial year; 2008-2009;

whether Government also proposes to setup a few hotels to meet the requirements of middle income group in the State; and

if so, what are the names of the places identified for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under the scheme 'Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits'.

Project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territory that are complete in all respects are approved on the basis of inter-se priority and funds released subject to availability under respective head.

Construction of hotels is primarily a private sector activity. The Ministry of Tourism is in regular touch with the State Governments and various land owning agencies like Railways, Ministry of Civil Aviation etc. for creating land banks for hotels, allocating land on joint venture/revenue sharing basis, adopting single window clearance and increasing FAR/FSI etc. The Ministry of Tourism offers capital subsidy for budget hotels of 1, 2 and 3 star category in the country.

Promotion of domestic tourism

1214. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that it has been found that Government has missed the point **that** domestic tourism has to be its building block for credible tourism industry, which then Will attract foreigners;

whether it is also a fact that India with a domestic tourist market currently believed to be as a big as 367 million has only been sputtering along, producing more smoke than motion in a largely futile race; and